

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

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THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

Esteemed Comrades,

We have received your Party's message of greetings to the 9th Congress of the Portuguese Communist Party with great pleasure. Your message reveals the bonds of fraternity and solidarity between our parties. We too desire to extend and strengthen those bonds on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, as a contribution towards developing and consolidating the unity of the international communist movement. We thank you for your message and send our fraternal greetings to you and to all the esteemed comrades.

Lisbon, 21 June 1979

Central Committee
Portuguese Communist Party

THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE IS ASSUMING LARGER DIMENSIONS

While public discussion was continuing about whether or not over-flying rights would be granted to planes which will be used by the American imperialists for espionage against the Soviet Union, the working class and working people of Turkey, democratic organisations and individuals, organised a large anti-imperialist demonstration and march in İzmir on the 30th of June. The march was undertaken on the call of the Peace Committee. İzmir holds the headquarters of the south-eastern regional command of NATO, and the march took place under the slogans, "No to NATO, bases, bilateral agreements, the neutron bomb and the arms race". 50 democratic organisations and trade unions, the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), and the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSIP) took part.

Thousands of patriots who took part in the march carried the banners, "No to NATO", "No flying rights for U-2's", "Implement SALT-2", "Independent Turkey", "Dismantle the bases", "Smash US imperialism", "No to the Neutron bomb", "No to the arms race" and "One Phantom, 750 houses, one Phantom, schools for 300 villages; we want bread, not Phantoms, milk not weapons!". The unity of action of Socialist parties, workers from DISK (the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions), Turk-Is (Trade Union Confederation of Turkey) and independent trade unions, democratic youth, women and professional organisations was expressed in a joint declaration stated, "Our peace-loving people do not wish to undertake the role of the gendarme of US imperialism, do not want to take part in NATO's attempts to sabotage world peace. We must withdraw from NATO, the enemy of world peace!".

This huge march and demonstration shows that the working people and democratic forces of Turkey listen to the voice of the TKP. In its statement of 21st May 1979 the Central Committee of the TKP forewarned our people, democratic forces and called them to unity in the struggle: "There is no place for American imperialists in our skies, on our seas or on our land! Our people

will not allow our territory to be used as a base for espionage flights against our great neighbour the Soviet Union, the fortress of world peace. The government must implement the Political Document signed with the Soviet Union." The enslaving bilateral agreements with the American imperialists who trample national dignity underfoot must be torn up and the NATO and American bases dismantled and driven out of our land.

In the statement, the TKP called TIP (Workers' Party of Turkey), TSIP (Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey), other socialist parties, RPP (Republican Peoples' Party) supporters, Kurdish democrats and all patriots to unity of action in the struggle. The massive anti-imperialist demonstration in İzmir was also an indication of how the TKP's leadership is embracing the masses and influencing the democratic forces.

The struggle of the working people of Turkey against American imperialism and NATO also affects patriotic officers and soldiers in the army. The statement by Kenan Evren, the Chief of Staff, that was reported in the newspapers on 24 June, that, "It is not possible to grant over-flying rights to U-2's", is not just a tactical manoeuvre. It is the outcome of anti-imperialist pressures from patriotic forces in the army. The statement by Evren caused a great stir. The US Foreign Ministry said, "We are waiting for an explanation of the conditions on which this statement is based." The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission, the RPP Hatay Senator, Professor Ziya Gokalp Mulayım, congratulated Evren on his statement and agreed that, "U-2 flights over Turkey would be detrimental to our security". Prime Minister Ecevit also said that the government was of the same view as the Chief of Staff.

All these developments are signs that the anti-imperialist struggle is reaching greater dimensions and that the resistance of our people against imperialism is having an effect on the army and the government circles.

FASCIST ATTACKS AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC MEASURES ARE CONTINUING

Taking advantage of the conciliating policy of the Ecevit government, the reactionary-fascist forces have further increased their many-sided attacks.

The upsurge of bloody attacks in the second half of June is a concrete example of this. Türkeş's fascists killed Cemil Collu, the former Manisa NAP (Nationalist Action Party) provincial chairman before his resignation, for "turning away from the mission". Right after this they started to wage an intensive terror campaign in Manisa. They killed two progressives, one of them a member of the Progressive Youth Organisation (İGD). They wounded the Manisa İGD provincial chairman in the head. They killed Nese Gulersoy, member of the IKD (Progressive Women's Organisation) and the former RPP candidate for the town mayorship. The funeral of progressives murdered by fascists were massively attended. Besides the IKD, the İGD, trade unions and professional organisations, many RPP parliamentarians and members of the RPP women's branch also took part.

In İstanbul, the Bakırköy Community Centre was bombed by fascists. Nihat Ozyağcı, Serdar Akcan, Yusuf Atabakan, 3 patriots and members of the

IGD, were killed and 5 others wounded. Police have increased their pressures against progressive forces in order to conceal the attack by fascists. Police attacked thousands of youth demonstrating to protest against this incident. 324 youth were taken into custody by the İstanbul Martial Law Court.

In the Cebeci district of Ankara, a left-wing citizen, İbrahim Baser, was killed by fascists. In İstanbul, Alaattin Kılıç, an educational specialist from the trade union Bank-Sen, was attacked by fascists. In İzmir, Ali Billur and Yucel Okutan, members of the Democratic People's Cultural Association, were taken to a police station and tortured. One of those tortured, Ali Billur, now faces the danger of paralysis. A youth writing on the wall in Samsun was killed by police fire.

Terror in the eastern provinces and in Kurdistan has escalated since the imposition of martial law. The villages in the region are being raided. In Mardin, Hakkari, Van and other eastern towns, arrests are continuing without let-up. Those arrested and detained are being tortured. This terror is being waged in particular against members of progressive organisations and establishments, as well as Kurdish democrats.

THE FASCIST ARTICLE 141 IS IN THE DOCK TOO

In a case where the charges were based on this article, the İstanbul Martial Law Prosecutor stated that fascist article 141 of the penal code contravenes the constitution, and requested an application to the Constitutional Court for repeal. The İzmir 2nd Felony Court had also applied for the repeal of the same article. In the course of the trial of the managing editor of "Ürün" Publications, Ahmet Taştan, for legally publishing the TKP Programme, these articles were found to contravene the constitution and sent to the Constitutional Court. Thus, we see that the judicial organs can no longer come to a decision in cases where charges are based on these articles. The martial law courts are forced to accept that these articles contravene the constitution. The files of cases based on articles 141-142 shuttle backwards and forwards between the Appeal Court and martial law courts.

Nevertheless, charges are continuously being laid against many authors based on fascist articles 141-142. One of the directors of the "Politika" newspaper, Aydın Şenesen, was charged under fascist article 142 for an article entitled "There are also prosecutors in Turkey". Aydın Şenesen was also charged with conducting communist propaganda in an article entitled, "The position of women at present and women in a socialist society". This prosecutor transferred the case to the Martial Law Court.

THE MARCH OF THE SODA WORKERS

The Mersin Soda Factory workers who have been on strike close to a year have protested against the employer who threw them out of work and employed fascists in their stead. To publicise their just demands, on 19th of

June, 857 workers started a march of hundreds of kilometers to Ankara from the Konya highway, together with their wives and children.

A strong campaign of solidarity has developed around this action of the soda workers from the working class, class trade unions, democratic establishments and organisations and peasant working people. In Mut, Karaman, Konya and other towns and townships, reactionary mayors, local administrators, police, gendarmes and martial law authorities resorted to a variety of threats, intimidations and harassments in an attempt to obstruct this great march of the soda workers and to dissuade the workers from action. Having reached Ankara in spite of all obstructions, the soda workers were prevented from entering the capital by the Ankara Martial Law Authority. The soda workers are insisting on entering Ankara. The TKP, trade unions and youth organisations are supporting their struggle.

9TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 15-16 JUNE

The 15-16 June action, which passed into the history of struggle of our working class as the "Great Workers Resistance", was commemorated in various parts of the country by various class trade-unions, as well as many democratic establishments and organisations. As is known, the 15-16 June action was the resolute and massive reply of our working class to the attempts of the Demirel government to change the Trade-Union law and destroy hard-won trade-union democratic rights in 1970. 100,000 workers participated in this resistance which was halted by the declaration of martial law. Workers and trade-union leaders were arrested.

The first and one of the most massive meetings held to celebrate the 9th anniversary of the 15-16 June took place in Iskenderun. The meeting, organised jointly by trade-unions, democratic women, youth, and professional organisations, was a step forward toward towards the realisation of the unity of action of all national, democratic forces. The joint statement issued emphasised:

"15-16 June is a glorious page in the history of the struggle of our working class. This resistance showed that rights won can be defended only by the organised working class, and that new rights can be gained only in this organised manner, through struggle. The rights of general strike and referendum, the repeal of articles 13 and 17 of the Labour Law, as well as articles 141 and 142 of the Penal Code, will be achieved as the result of an organised and determined struggle on the part of the working class and democratic forces. Forward for class and mass trade-unions!..."

At the Technical University of Istanbul, police attacked thousands of students celebrating the 15-16 June events. Over 400 youths were arrested.

In Izmit, the Metal Workers' Union (Maden-İş), Bank Employees' Union (Bank-Sen) and Public Workers' Union (Bay-Sen) organised an evening on 15 June to commemorate the 15-16 June. Various professional, youth, women's and peasant organisations participated in the evening. The significance of this great resistance of the workers and the necessity for unity of action of all national democratic forces were emphasised in the course of the

evening. Class trade unions and democratic mass organisations in the Kocaeli region had decided to organise a meeting for the "Defence and development of democratic rights and freedoms" on 16 June. However, due to obstructions from the governor, a member of the Justice Party, and police headquarters in Kocaeli, the meeting was postponed to 30 June.

On 30 June, a massive demonstration and meeting was held in İzmit under the slogan "Defence and development of democratic rights and freedoms". Tens of thousands of people participated. The following slogans were shouted at the demonstration and meeting: "No to Articles 141 and 142!", "No to the IMF", "Freedom to the party of the working class!", "Open the IKD (Progressive Women's Organisation)", "Collective Bargaining without Martial Law!".

The General President of Maden-İş (the metal workers' union), Kemal Türkler, spoke at the İzmit demonstration and described it as the most massive demonstration following the May Day celebrations in İzmir. Türkler stated that the ban on the free political organisation of the working class was still in force, that this anachronistic ban was directly tied to the present deep crisis, and added that as long as the working class could not freely form political organisations, "it is impossible to find solutions to the crisis in the country." He emphasised the need for the unity of strength and action of all national democratic forces. The İzmit demonstration was a successful step forward in this direction.

The Ankara Martial Law Command banned 15-16 June celebrations. In opposition to this, 21 democratic organisations, including trade unions affiliated to DİSK (the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions) issued a joint statement protesting against the ban and stated that with the 15-16 June actions, the working class proved to both friend and foe that it is the most dynamic force in society and above all, the most important force in the struggle.

